

a) a baseplate with a bottom configured to face and contact the fabric;

b) a plurality of apertures, formed in the bottom of the baseplate, forming extraction nozzles configured to withdraw fluid from the fabric therethrough; and

Q2 c) a barrier, disposed on the bottom of the baseplate behind the plurality of apertures, configured to force liquid in the fabric towards the plurality of apertures.

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81. (New) A device in accordance with claim 80, further comprising another plurality of barriers disposed on the bottom of the baseplate, with each of the barriers disposed between adjacent apertures.--

#### REMARKS

Applicant expresses appreciation to the Examiner for the consideration of the subject patent application. The following comments are offered to overcome the rejections cited by the Office Action.

Claims 21 and 22 remain in the application. Claims 1-20 and 23-54 have been canceled without prejudice. New claims 55-81 have been added without adding new subject matter. Support for the new claims is found in the specification on page 9, line 5, through page 10, line 19.

The present invention is an enhancement device for enhancing the removal of liquid from fabric. For example, the enhancement device can be constructed in a carpet-cleaning machine for extracting liquid from carpet. The enhancement device has a base plate with one or more apertures which serve as extraction nozzles. One or more barriers advantageously are disposed on the bottom of the base plate to force liquid in the fabric towards the apertures as the base plate is moved across the fabric. Preferably, a plurality of barriers are used with each being located between adjacent apertures. The barriers preferably have a V-shaped cross section, such that only a small surface area contacts the fabric, thus increasing the pressure and penetration of the of the barriers. Alternatively, a barrier may be located behind the apertures, or both between and behind the apertures.

#### **Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112**

Claims 7-48 were rejected under § 112, first paragraph, because claims 7, 21 and 35 recited "any liquid". Claims 7 and 35 have been canceled, while claim 21 has been amended.

Claims 1-54 were rejected under § 112, 2nd paragraph, for failing to provide sufficient and proper antecedent basis. Claims 1-20 and 23-54 have been canceled, while claims 21 and 22 have been amended.

Claims 1-54 were rejected under § 112, 6th paragraph.  
Claims 1-20 and 23-54 have been canceled, while claims 21 and 22 have been amended.

**Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 & 103**

Claims 1 and 3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Holubinka. Claims 1, 7-10, 14, 16, 18, 35-38, 40, 44, 46, 48, 49 and 53 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kuma et al. Claims 2-6, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 39, 41, 43, 45, 47, 50-52 and 54 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Kuma et al. in view of Burgoon. No prior art rejections were made with respect to claims 12, 20-34 and 42.

Claims 1-20 and 23-54 have been canceled.

Applicant respectfully submits that amended claims 21 and 22, and new claims 55-81 are patentable over the prior art.

**CONCLUSION**

In light of the above, Applicant believes that claims 21, 22 and 55-81 are now in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicant requests that the rejections be withdrawn and that the claims be passed to issue. If any impediment to the allowance of these claims remains after entry of this Amendment, the Examiner

is strongly encouraged to call Garron M Hobson at (801) 566-6633 so that such matters may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

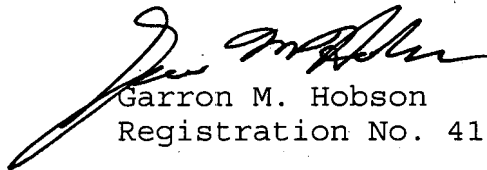
Check No. 11472, in the amount of \$195.00, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a)(2), for a two month extension of time pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is enclosed.

Twenty-seven claims were added (claims 55-81), including four independent claims (claims 62, 71, 77 and 80), while fifty-two claims were canceled (claims 1-20 and 23-54), including 5 independent claims (claims 1, 5, 7, 35 and 49). Therefore, no additional fee is due.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee or to credit any overpayment in connection with this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 20-0100.

DATED this 8<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2001.

Respectfully submitted,



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